

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CAB-02
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
FAA-00 L-03 NSCE-00 /036 W
-----041395 241851Z /43

O R 241724Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0531
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BERN

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PLEASE PASS FARMER CAB BY TELEPHONE

E. O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR
SUBJECT: CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 102316

1. US AND FRENCH DELS CONFERRED IN PARIS TODAY ON SEVERAL CIVAIR ISSUES. TALKS WERE FRIENDLY, BUT IMPORTANT DISAGREEMENTS REMAIN.
2. IN LIGHT OF US DEL REPORT ON LIKELY TIMETABLE ON DOT CONCORDE RULES (SEPTTEL), FRENCH INDICATED THEY WOULD EXTEND FOR THREE MONTHS (UNTIL END OF JULY) TWA AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE BLIND SECTOR BETWEEN NICE AND GENEVA. FRENCH INDICATED THIS WAS LAST POSSIBLE EXTENSION UNLESS A MORE PERMANENT SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT WAS POSSIBLE AT THAT TIME.
3. BOTH DELS REITERATED CONFLICTING VIEWS ON RIGHT OF PAN AM TO CHANGE GAUGE IN LONDON. US DEL STATED THAT IT

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CONSIDERED FRENCH POSITION ERRONEOUS, AND THAT EFFORTS TO PREVENT CHANGE OF GAUGE WOULD BE CONSIDERED A VIOLATION OF THE BILATERAL AND US WOULD RESPOND ACCORDINGLY. AS COMPROMISE AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, US DEL SUGGESTED THAT CHANGE OF GAUGE OPERATE FOR LIMITED PERIOD (SIX MONTHS) WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EITHER SIDE'S POSITION, AND THEN BE REVIEWED AGAIN

ALONG WITH OTHER PENDING ISSUES. FRENCH HAVE NOT YET REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL, ALTHOUGH THEIR POSITION INITIALLY WAS THAT CHANGE OF GAUGE SHOULD BE TRADE FOR REDUCTION IN TWA FIFTH FREEDOM OPERATIONS. US REJECTED THAT POSITION.

4. PURSUANT TO STATE 102316, US DEL DID NOT PRESENT FRENCH WITH ANY STATISTICS ON TWA FIFTH FREEDOM. FRENCH COMPLAINED REPEATEDLY, STATING THAT STATISTICS HAD BEEN REQUESTED IN FEBRUARY AND YET NO RESPONSE HAD BEEN RECEIVED. ON US DEL POINT THAT FIFTH

FREEDOM OPERATIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED EX POST FACTO, FRENCH RESPONDED THAT THEY HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT FIFTH FREEDOM AND REQUESTED DATA FROM TWA EVEN BEFORE SCHEDULE INCREASE WAS REQUESTED, AND A REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE CANNOT OPERATE TO CHANGE AN EX POST FACTO REVIEW TO AN A PRIORI ONE.

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5. AS MENTIONED, IN RETURN FOR US COMPROMISE ON TWA FIFTH FREEDOM, FRENCH SAID THEY WOULD APPROVE PAN AM CHANGE OF GAUGE. US DEL REJECTED THIS LINKAGE, BUT SAID IT WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE ON GATHERING STATIS-

TICS AND PARTICIPATING IN GOOD FAITH IN EX POST FACTO
REVIEW ON FIFTH FREEDOM. DESPITE US POLICY OBJECTION
TO SUCH LIMITATIONS ON AIRLINE OPERATIONS, WE RECOGNIZED
BILATERAL LIMITATIONS ON FIFTH FREEDOM OPERATIONS.
US DEL SAID SOME STATISTICS WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN
30 DAYS ON LAST YEAR'S OPERATIONS. WE URGED AGAIN
THAT FRENCH TAKE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON CHANGE OF GAUGE
IN MEANTIME, TO AVOID CONFRONTATION THAT WOULD AFFECT A
NUMBER OF AREAS OF AVIATION COOPERATION.

6. FRENCH FINAL POSITION WAS TO SAY NOTHING ON CHANGE
OF GAUGE AND TO URGE US TO PROVIDE REQUESTED
STATISTICS ASAP. SUBSEQUENT TO NEGOTIATIONS, FRENCH
CHAIRMAN TOLD US CHAIRMAN THAT HE WOULD RETHINK CHANGE
OF GAUGE ISSUE.
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7. ON SIDE ISSUE, US DEL TRANSMITTED TO FRENCH INFO
PROVIDED BY NATIONAL AIRLINES RELATING TO BENEFITS TO
FRANCE OF ALLOWING NATIONAL TO SERVE PARIS AT CHARLES
DE GAULLE AIRPORT. INCREASED USE OF FRENCH AIRPORT
FOR CONNECTING FLIGHTS SHOULD AID AIR FRANCE.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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